

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02442 01 OF 02 160940 Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----- 078304

O 160850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1860

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 2442

EXDIS

HONG KONG FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IR, OCON

SUBJ: NEA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE/ DEPSEC
SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 66736

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED 0730 LOCAL TIME APRIL 25 AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE. FYI: IRANIAN PRESS USUALLY GENTLE AND NOT PERSISTENT. HOWEVER, IF BB C AND OTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN TEHRAN AND AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS OUT OF BEIRUT ARE PRESENT AT CONFERENCE, QUESTIONING MAY BE PENETRATING AND PERSISTENT. END FYI.

2. QUESTION: WHAT WAS CONFERENCE ALL ABOUT?

ANSWER: THESE CONFERENCES ARE ROUTINE AND NOT RELATED TO ANY PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES. LAST SUCH CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN WAS HELD IN 1970. OF COURSE, QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS AFFECTING THIS GEOGRAPHIC BUREAU (NEA) WERE DISCUSSED. IT ALSO AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH THE LEADERS OF FRIENDLY IRAN.

3. QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON U. S. POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL AND TOWARDS THE ARAB STATES, OF THE GROWING U. S. DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EASTERN OIL?
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02442 01 OF 02 160940 Z

ANSWER: WE HAVEN' T GIVEN UP ON FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ARAB- ISRAEL DISPUTE. ON THE BASIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1967

UN RESOLUTION WE STAND READY TO LEND OUR GOOD OFFICES IN GETTING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY OF MOVING AHEAD IS ON A STEP BY STEP BASIS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS WOULD ESTABLISH AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT MIGHT LEAD TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

4. QUESTION: WHY IS THE UNITED STATES SELLING SO MANY ARMS TO IRAN? WOULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS?

ANSWER: OUR PRACTICE IS TO AVOID GIVING DETAILS OF OUR ARMS RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. SUCH QUESTIONS ARE MORE PROPERLY ADDRESSED TO THE PURCHASER. BUT AS TO THE GENERAL PURPOSE, WE ENJOY VERY CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH IRAN. IT SEEKS ARMS FOR PURPOSES OF LEGITIMATE SELF- DEFENSE FOR IRAN ITSELF AND TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN THE AREA. IT IS PAYING FOR THESE ARMS AND WE ARE PROVIDING THEM AS WE ARE TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

5. QUESTION: HOW DO YOU REGARD THE CURRENT KUWAITI-IRAQI BORDER DISPUTE?

ANSWER: WE SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF KUWAIT AS WE HAVE FROM DAY ONE THIS FRIENDLY COUNTRY GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION

TO THE DISPUTE CAN BE FOUND SO THAT THE STABILITY AND TRANQUILITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF AREA MAY BE PRESERVED.

6. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT YOUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. GANDHI? DID YOU URGE RELEASE OF THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR?

ANSWER: WE HAD VERY FRIENDLY AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. I BELIEVE OUR MEETINGS WITH MRS. GANDHI AND OTHER INDIAN OFFICIALS WILL HELP TO DISSIPATE PREVIOUS MISUNDERSTANDINGS. WE DO VERY MUCH FAVOR A RELEASE OF THE PAKISTANI POWS AND WE SHALL DO ANYTHING WE REASONABLY CAN, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN AND INDIA.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 02442 01 OF 02 160940 Z

7. QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE REOPENING OF UNITED STATES ARMS SALES TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN MEAN?

ANSWER: WE HAVE TAKEN A LIMITED STEP TO WIPE THE OLD SLATE CLEAR. THUS, UNDERTAKINGS TO PAKISTAN MADE BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR IN THAT COUNTRY ARE BEING LIVED UP TO. THAT INCLUDES THE SALE TO PAKISTAN OF 300 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. AFTER THAT OUR SALES TO BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN WILL CONSIST OF NON- LETHAL MATERIAL AND SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT SOLD PREVIOUSLY.

8. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE ISRAELI COMMANDO ATTACK
IN BEIRUT? WILL THIS MEAN THAT YOU WILL STOP SUPPLY-
ING ARMS TO ISRAEL?

CONFIDENTIAL

ADP000

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02442 02 OF 02 161012 Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----- 078531

O 160850 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1861
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 2442

EXDIS

HONG KONG FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, IR, OCON
SUBJ: NEA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE/ DEPSEC
SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 66736

ANSWER: WE REGRET ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE ARAB- ISRAEL CONTEXT
FROM WHATEVER SOURCE OR SIDE THEY COME. THEY ONLY ADD TO AN
APPARENTLY ENDLESS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THAT MAKES PEACE
HARDER TO ATTAIN. BUT WE BELIEVE ISRAEL IS ENTITLED TO EXIST
AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY IT ARMS FOR LEGITIMATE
SEF- DEFENSE.

9. QUESTION: YOU BELIEVE THAT SECURITY IN THE PERSIAN
GULF SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LITTORAL STATES,
I BELIEVE. THEN WHY DO YOU MAINTAIN YOUR NAVAL BASE AT BAHRAIN?

ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE A NAVAL BASE ON BAHRAIN.
WE HAVE THE USE OF MINIMUM HOUSEKEEPING FACILITIES FOR TWO OR
THREE MILITARILY INSIGNIFICANT SHIPS. WE ACQUIRED THESE FACILI-
TIES AS BRITAIN WAS WITHDRAWING FROM THE GULF AREA. THE PRIMARY
MISSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE IS TO PROMOTE
GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMERICANS AND THE PEOPLES
OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED BY OUR SHIPS, BOTH IN THE PERSIAN
GULF AND BORDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02442 02 OF 02 161012 Z

10. QUESTION: ARE YOU AWARE THAT THERE ARE NO BASIC HUMAN FREEDOMS PERMITTED IN IRAN BY THIS REGIME? AND ARE YOU AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISSIDENCE IN THE IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES BASED IN PART ON EXCESSIVE RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED TO ARMS PURCHASES?

ANSWER: IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT ALL FOR ME TO REPLY IN ANY WAY TO QUESTIONS ON THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF IRAN. SUCH MATTERS ARE IRAN'S PROVINCE AND NOT THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES. FYI: WE RECOMMEND SOME SUCH RESPONSE TO ALL SUCH NEEDLING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY. END FYI.

11. QUESTION: WHAT WILL THE NEW US ENERGY POLICY JUST ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT NIXON MEAN FOR IRAN?

ANSWER: THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE NATURALLY LAYS STRESS ON OBTAINING AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCREASED AMERICAN SOURCES OF DOMESTIC ENERGY AND CREATING A SIMPLER AND MORE RATIONAL POLICY TO GUIDE THE IMPORTS OF FOREIGN OIL AND GAS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY FOR THE NEXT EIGHT TO TEN YEARS. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT MOST OF THESE INCREASED IMPORTS WILL COME FROM THE AREA OF THE PERSIAN GULF. I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEW IMPORT POLICY WILL INSURE THAT IRAN OBTAINS ITS FAIR SHARE OF THIS VAST MARKET IN THE U. S.

12. QUESTION: WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DOES THE "ENERGY CRISIS" IN THE UNITED STATES PRESENT TO IRAN?

ANSWER: THE SO-CALLED "ENERGY CRISIS" IN THE US, UNLIKE IN SOME OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES, IS NOT A SHORTAGE OF ENERGY AS SUCH. RATHER IT HAS RESULTED FROM THE GRADUAL EXHAUSTION OF THE SOURCES OF CHEAP ENERGY WHICH AMERICANS HAVE SO LONG ENJOYED. THE QUESTION AT ISSUE IN THE GREAT DEBATE ON ENERGY WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE US OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS, AND OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT MESSAGE ON ENERGY POLICY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT, HAS BEEN HOW TO DETERMINE AND ACHIEVE A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MORE EXPENSIVE, BUT STILL ABUNDANT SOURCES OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN THE US, AND INCREASED IMPORTS FROM OVERSEAS. HOWEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AMERICA'S IMPORTS FROM THE PERSIAN GULF REGION ARE BOUND TO INCREASE. THESE IMPORTS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 02442 02 OF 02 161012 Z

WILL PRESENT IRAN, A FIRM AND LONG STANDING FRIEND OF THE US, WITH SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED SALES OF OIL TO THE US.

13. QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF IRAN'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS THUS FAR?

ANSWER: WE ARE FRANKLY PLEASED AND IMPRESSED BY BOTH THE PACE AND EXTENT OF IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. THE US -- BOTH OFFICIALLY AND THROUGH ITS PRIVATE COMPANIES -- HAS PLAYED, WE THINK, A USEFUL AND IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED FUTURE COOPERATION IN TRADE, FINANCE, AND INDUSTRY WHICH THE AMBITIOUS GOALS OF THE FIFTH PLAN MAKE BOTH POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY. IRAN AND THE US CAN AND SHOULD EXPAND THEIR TRADE ON A BALANCED BASIS AND IT IS JUST SUCH HEARTENING DEVELOPMENTS AS IRAN'S TRULY IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WILL BRING THIS ABOUT. IT'S GOOD FOR IRAN, GOOD FOR THE US, AND GOOD FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE.

HELMS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEHRAN02442
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730459/abqcdyul.tel
Line Count: 231
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 66736
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <13-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE/ DEPSEC SCHEDULE
TAGS: OVIP, IR, OCON
To: STATE
HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005